

REPLY EMAIL: ~~maryellen225@yahoo.com~~REPLY PHONE: ~~617-600-3500~~

SUBJECT: Meridian Street Library

MESSAGE: Dear Sheila, This is a letter of support for the C.D.C.-EBECC proposal for the East Boston Library. The proposal elements are comprehensive and provide essential support services and programs for East Boston residents. Providing the immigrant community with E.S.O.L programs is an important service which helps non English speakers acclimate to this country and helps them to gain employment, access educational and health care services and achieve citizenship. Such opportunities create independent people and build a strong community. Child care is a necessary service for working parents. There are waiting lists for day care slots in East Boston. Licensed and well supervised day care programs are needed in this community. Programs for young people are few and far between in East Boston. Lack of funding is often the reason for not having sufficient programming for young people. This age group needs support and guidance extra curricular activities which enhance their personal and educational growth. In addition, healthy and fun recreational activities keep youth active and safe. The opportunity to have college opportunities within our neighborhood is an interesting and exciting opportunity for everyone. Affordable and convenient college programs is something which is an attractive and intriguing opportunity for young and older residents of East Boston. There are many people here who participated in Urban College through A.B.C.D. It conducive to better employment opportunities and a step to a four year degree after completing the two year program. Preserving the architectural integrity of the library is important to this community. This development group will do this while providing necessary and helpful programs and projects. Keeping the intimate performance space in the basement is an added attraction. Over the years many school programs used this area for performances and activities. With this E.B.E.C.C.-C.D.C proposal the neighborhood gets programs for a large cross section of the community. From infants to seniors many people will be able to avail themselves of the programs and projects at the library. Sincerely, Mary Ellen Welch

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**Support for EBCDC Collaborative**

1 message

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Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 9:57 AM

To: rpannesi.dnd@cityofboston.gov

This is a letter of support for a proposal that is being considered regarding the Meridian Street Library. The non-profit programs that will be offered in this space is so necessary to the people of East Boston, as it will serve all who walk through its doors who are seeking to become productive citizens of the community in which they live. Many studies have shown that children who get an early start in education, stimulation, safety, nutrition and sincere concern for their well-being translates into higher education, better jobs and a better quality of life. The children who will partake of these child care, and after school programs will be witnessing their parents going out to work and/or getting educated themselves. They are their role models and they will seek to emulate their parents' behavior. The children will learn by example from their parents, counselors and teachers of all of the programs offered that through studying, hardwork, teamwork they too can achieve greater success in their future and will learn to give back to their community and in turn will help others. I am a long-serving Member of the Board of Directors of the East Boston Social Center so I have first hand knowledge of what these programs accomplish and seen the success they have had with former babies, children, young teens, young adults and elderly, alike. The East Boston Social Center has a proven track record of helping kids become productive citizens of society for close to 100 years. I strongly urge you to award the Meridian Street Library to the CDC Collaborative. Thank you. Sandra Caggiano